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## SONG-GAMES FROM CONNECTICUT.

THE games below communicated were played and sung in the back country towns of Connecticut as late as the year 1870, at the so-called "Evening Party." In the centre of the house was usually found a large and old chimney, and the rooms were connected by doors, so that it was possible to march round. In each cosy corner was stationed one to choose from the players, who moved marching and singing; at the proper time in the game the chooser took a sounding kiss, and left his choice to continue in the same manner. About midnight were passed refreshments of several kinds, "frosted cake," apples, popped corn, walnuts and butternuts already cracked, a pitcher of cider, and another of cold water; no napkins were thought of. Each guest was seated and given an empty plate, after which the young men handed the good things on large waiters. The singing and marching was resumed, and kept up until about four o'clock in the morning, when the young men issued and huddled about the door, and as the girls came out, each stepped forward, and offered his arm to his choice, with the words: "Can I see you home?" after which they separated, and went in the dark, often across fields, to their scattered homes, perhaps two miles away; at the door of the fair one (which often was the back door, when snow lay on the ground, and no path had been shovelled to the front entrance), there was always a final hug and kiss. Chaperones were unknown in those neighborhoods; thus did our rural Puritan mothers trust to the inherited honor and good sense of their daughters, and all was right and pure and good. Of flirting there was not much; each girl had one young man, whom, as she would have said, she "liked," and cared nothing for the admiration of the others. When any girl in the community had acquired the name of "liking the boys" (which meant receiving questionable attentions from more than one), she was dropped from the kissing party, and the young men who would "wait upon her" were considered as of doubtful character, and no longer accepted as escorts by those on whose name no stain of reproach had rested.

These games I saw played in the hill towns of Ashford and Eastford, in the year 1865. The music was procured from Mrs. Charles Perrin, who played the games in her youth.

## I. ROSE IN THE GARDEN.

Sail-ing in the boat when the tide runs high, Sail-ing in the boat when the tide runs high, Sail - ing in the boat when the tide runs high, Wait-ing for the pret - ty girl to come by'm by. Here she comes so fresh and fair, Sky - blue eyes and curl - y hair, Ro - sy in cheek, dimple in her chin, Say, young men, but you can't come in.

Sailing in the boat when the tide runs high,  
 Sailing in the boat when the tide runs high,  
 Sailing in the boat when the tide runs high,  
 Waiting for the pretty girl to come by 'm by.  
 Here she comes so fresh and fair,  
 Sky-blue eyes and curly hair,  
 Rosy in cheek, dimple in her chin,  
 Say, young men, but you can't come in.

Rose in the garden for you, young man,  
 Rose in the garden for you, young man,  
 Rose in the garden, get it if you can,  
 But take care and don't get a frost-bitten one.

Choose your partner, stay till day,  
 Choose your partner, stay till day,  
 Choose your partner, stay till day,  
 Never, never mind what the old folks say.

Old folks say 't is the very best way,  
 Old folks say 't is the very best way,  
 Old folks say 't is the very best way,  
 To court all night and sleep all day.

## 2. OLD MAIDS.

All you that are sin - gle and wild in your ways,  
 Come sow your wild oats in your youth - ful days, And  
 you shall live hap - py, You shall live hap - py When you grow old.  
 The day is far spent and the night's com - ing on, So  
 give us your arm and go jog - ging a - long, And  
 you shall be hap - py, You shall be hap - py When you grow old.

All you that are single and wild in your ways,  
 Come sow your wild oats in your youthful days,  
 And you shall live happy,  
 You shall live happy when you grow old.  
 The day is far spent and the night's coming on,  
 So give us your arm and go jogging along,  
 And you shall be happy,  
 You shall be happy when you grow old.

At the words : "So give us your arm," the couples which are marching change off, and each girl tries to get a boy's arm, and escape being left over for the old maid, the number of players being so arranged that the girls make one more than the young men.

## 3. MARRIAGE.

Here we go a-round this ring, For you to choose while oth-ers sing ;  
 Choose the one that you love best, And I'll be bound 'twill suit the rest.



Now you're married you must be good, Be sure and chop your husband's wood ;



Live to-ge-th-er all your life, and be a good and faith-ful wife.

Here we go around this ring,  
For you to choose while others sing ;  
Choose the one that you love best,  
And I'll be bound 't will suit the rest.  
Now you 're married you must be good,  
Be sure and chop your husband's wood ;  
Live together all your life,  
And be a good and faithful wife.

#### 4. THE RICH WIDOW.



I am a rich wid - ow, I live all a - lone, I



have but one daugh - ter and she is my own. Go,



daugh - ter, go, daugh - ter, and choose you a one, Go



choose you a good one or else choose none. I've



mar - ried off my daugh-ter, I've giv'n her a - way, I've



mar - ried off my daugh - ter, She's bound to o - bey ; She's



bound to o - bey and to nev - er disa - gree, So



as you go round, kiss her one, two, three.

I am a rich widow, I live all alone,  
I have but one daughter and she is my own.  
Go, daughter, go, daughter, and choose you a one,  
Go choose you a good one, or else choose none.  
I've married off my daughter, I've given her away,  
I've married off my daughter, she's bound to obey,  
She's bound to obey and to never disagree,  
So as you go round, kiss her one, two, three.

5. KING WILLIAM WAS KING GEORGE'S SON.

In this play a young man stands with a broad-brimmed hat in his hand. While the song proceeds, he puts it on a girl's head, after which they march arm in arm, and finally she in turn puts it on the head of a young man, to continue as before :—

King William was King George's son,  
And from the royal blood he sprung ;  
Upon his breast he wore a stowe,  
Which denotes the sign of woe.  
Say, young lady, will you 'list and go ?  
Say, young lady, will you 'list and go ?  
The broad-brimmed hat you must put on,  
And follow on to the fife and drum.

The play continues until all have been crowned with the hat, and march round the chimney in couples, singing with a will the words over and over.

*Emma M. Backus.*

EDITOR'S NOTE.— The game is (or within a few years was) very familiar in the streets of our cities, where the words now are :—

King William was King George's son,  
And all the royal race he run ;  
Upon his breast he wore a star,  
And it was called the sign of war.

The popularity of the meaningless song (*Games and Songs of American Children*, No. 17) is surprising, and it was natural to regard it as the imported amusement of children of Irish birth. However, by this interesting communication, it would seem that the game is from England, and represented recruiting in war time.—*W. W. N.*